formulate a new telecommunication policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. The policy is under consideration of Government.

(b) The policy proposes to provide guidelines for development and operations of Telecom. services under the Ministry of Communications.

Loss of Life and Property during Punjab Bandh

6912. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Bandh on August 14 and 15, 1991 caused loss of life and property in the State;

(b) if so, the number of persons/security force personnel killed and the extent of loss caused to property during the bandh; and

(c) the number of extremists arrested/killed during the bandh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). According to the available information, 16 persons including policemen were killed during the terrorists violence on August 14-15, 1991. Some incidents of arson of vehicles and explosion of railway track were also reported. Nine terrorists were reported to have been killed and eight others arrested during the same period.

[*Translation*]

Freedom Fighters Pension to Soldiers and Officers of Indian National Army

6913. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers and officers of Indian National Army are being paid Freedom Fighters' pension;

(b) if so, whether they are being paid dearness, allowance also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). Indian National Army personnel who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down under the Central Pension Scheme, are eligible for pension. Pension is paid as a token of 'Samman' at lumpsum rates as decided by the Government from time to time. There is no provision for payment of dearness allowance in the Scheme.

Alleged Bungling in R.M.S. Department of Varanasi and Mughal Sarai

6914. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaints regarding bungling in parcels and tampering with Money Orders and insured envelops at the Railway Mail Service Department in Varanasi and Mughal Sarai had been received;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received since 1986; and